Statement

The precise etiology of this disease has not been established. Therefore, precise chemical control measures have not been successfully demonstraated by research organisations. A research project undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University has revealed that

(A) As the spread of the disease was observed to be less in heavy soils compared to light textured soils, improvement of soil texture by application of bulky organic manures, green manures etc. to the light soils may help in checking the spread of the disease.

(B) The soil sample from a healthy garden was observed to contain higher level of available phosphorus than soils from diseased gardens. Hence application of phosphorus to guave gardens may be helpful.

Availability of High Quality Seeds to Farmers

214. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure good and high quality of seeds to the farmers all over the country;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in this direction in Orissa;

(c) whether there is a need to keep the buffer stock of seeds in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) In the Zonal Conference on Seeds held on 19th and 20th September, 1988 at Bhubaneswar, the seeds requirement of Orissa State for Rabi, 1988-89, Kharif, 1989 and Rabi, 1989-90 have been assessed. After taking into account the internal supplies by the State Department of Agriculture and Orissa State Seeds Corporation, additional supplies to the extent possible have been arranged with the NSC, SFCT and the other State Seeds Corporations. For meeting the net shortage, the State was advised to make its own arrangements.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A scheme for the maintenance of Buffer Stock of foundation and certified seeds is in operation since 1st April, 1978 and had been operated by the National Seeds Corporation on behalf of the Government of India upto March, 1986. From 1st April, 1987, the original scheme has been modified to include the participation of the State Seeds Corporations on equal cost sharing basis, by the State Government and the Central Government. However, in case of the North-Eastern States, the cost of the scheme is borne by the Central Government, and is implemented by the National Seeds Corporation. The buffer stock scheme operated by the State Seeds Corporations will cover millets (viz maize, Jowar and Bajra), pulses and the oilseeds. In the case of the North-Eastern States, the National Seeds Corporation will maintain the seeds of paddy also besides the oilseeds, pulses and millets. In addition, a Buffer Stock Scheme for paddy and wheat is in operation under Special Foodgrains Production Programme during 1988-89. The scheme is in operation in the Special Food Production Programme (SFPP) States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.